
BREEDERS' UPDATE



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THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

December 24, 2020

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NEW YEAR, NEW HORIZONS!

Brad Reid

Good morning all, trust you had a wonderful festive period and enjoyed the great summer of racing thus far!

It started on Christmas Eve with Majestic Man making a mockery of a marketing department billing the flying mile as a two horse race.

There were fireworks on Christmas Eve at Auckland with Amazing Dream following in the footsteps of Dream About Me in winning an Open Class Group One, something that doesn't happen every day.

And all around the premiere racing has been wonderful grass roots racing in the regions. I was lucky enough to see the rear ends of a few horses at the 600m mark at Motukarara on the 29th, and couldn't help but be amazed by the crowd.

There is so much to be said for grass track racing, and while it is not for everyone, it's popularity is evident by big crowds around the country and reflected more so in turnover figures.

This might be a crazy analogy but hear me out.

A young NBA player was recently traded from a contending team in the big market of Brooklyn to a small market team in Indiana. I can imagine he would have been gutted, as most athletes live for the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

The impending trade has the caveat of the players involved needing to pass a medical. No different to a sale of a horse.

Imagine the surprise when a cat scan of a 25 year old athlete revealed a small mass on his kidney. It was cancerous and the player concerned had no signs of being anything but happy and healthy. In the end, what was probably a great disappointment ended up saving his life as he would never have had the scan had he not been traded.

In a way I can't help but feel that the pandemic that almost bought New Zealand and the racing industry to its knees, has invariably saved us in the short and bought some time for us to navigate the long term.

It fast tracked some challenging business decisions and forced us to rethink how we operate from the top down. More than that I feel that the greater racing public have a much greater appreciation for what we oft take for granted, and that is to participate in this great equine sport.

For what was considered nearly a birth right, I think many realized how close we came to having it taken away.

With no International travel to turn to, New Zealanders are turning to other avenues for their entertainment spend and we are without a doubt experiencing a racing renaissance.

With fresh leadership at HRNZ and some key personnel changes, I can sense that we might just be getting ourselves in a position to take advantage of what is happening and set ourselves up for the future.

Forward thinking, two way communication and a collaborative approach might seem like common sense but it's great to see and feel like we as an industry are learning from our mistakes of the past. There is a long way to go, but there are some extremely positive signs.

It's been a little quiet on the Breeders Update front given everything that's going on.

Personally I took the time to refresh the jets and had a fortnight off for the first time in a long time.

While I would like to say I feel refreshed, having just completed our Breeding Matters | Yearling Sales (Print) edition for 2021 I would be lying if I didn't say I feel exhausted. She went to print on Monday evening and everyone involved was glad to see the back of her after a few mammoth days.

The magazine which was compiled in a little over a fortnight is undoubtedly the biggest and best publication (aside from Stallion Register) we have ever produced.

For the first time ever we raised the bat with a century of content. That is right, we have churned out 100 pages of organic content that won't be found anywhere else.

That wouldn't be possible without a fantastic team around me. Two designers, one working on yearling sales adverts, the other formatting the publication. Nine journalists. Two editors. 40 adverts!! And 14 days to bring it all together.

It will be at New Zealand Post on Monday and is being couriered overnight to everyone who purchased a yearling in the last two years. The rest of the industry will receive the publication by snail mail however we will make the Yearling Sales publication online to the masses on Monday night also.

Look forward to catching up with a lot of you over the coming weeks at the Yearling Tours in the South Island and I'm particularly excited about the clash of some extremely talented mares at Addington on Friday night.

While there is a Vin Devery bred mare that is head and shoulders the stand out, the opportunity for black type is available for at least three female pacers. And as we saw in the Queen of Hearts, there is no such thing as a certainty in this game!

KENNEDY BOUNCING BACK

Brad Reid

"It is what it is," said Otautau's Dave Kennedy somewhat emphatically.

While blunt, it perfectly surmises the turbulence experienced over the last six or so months for Kennedy and his family.

The man responsible for breeding the second richest Australasian pacer of all time in (I'm) Themightyquinn was good as gold one minute, and not long after being scoped like a high priced horse headed to Perth.

"I was heading to a funeral in Queenstown in June last year and on the drive over there was doubled over in excruciating pain," he said.

"Around about Athol, for those curious 55km south of Queenstown, I said we had to stop the car because I couldn't go any further. After another half an hour I said you have to take me to Frankton hospital.

"We rushed there and they wired me up thinking it could have been a heart attack, which deep down I knew it wasn't.

"Then they thought it might have been either kidney or gallstones, but the ultrasound showed nothing there.

"They then did a CT scan and found a couple of lymph nodes were enlarged. They were in the stomach area and weren't anywhere where they could look further with the equipment available.

The frustrations of the public health system, particularly in Southland where resources are stretched to capacity made for a turbulent time as the Kennedy's searched and waited for answers.

"I had seven trips to Invercargill, three of which were in the ambulance in excruciating pain. I managed to get a biopsy and a week later came back the results saying I had b-cell lymphoma and that I would hear back from them in four to six weeks."

If your doctor tells you that you have b-cell lymphoma, it means you have a cancer that forms in white blood cells called lymphocytes, news that would be awfully hard to digest.

Having been in excruciating pain and bereft of answers, being told any further news or treatments with oncologists would be up to six weeks away would see even the Dalai Lama lose his cool.

Kennedy became a little coltish shall we say, telling them exactly what he thought of the ordeal for which he hadn't been prescribed as much as a Panadol since discover-



ing the issue. When emphasised, words that rhyme with trucking have a funny way of inspiring action.

His medical appointment was brought forward six weeks and here we are in January with Kennedy having just returned from Christchurch where he had a further CT scan for an update on his progress to beat 'the bastard'.

The results are unknown but Kennedy has said from the outside "I will beat this", and you would be a fool for doubting him when you hear the conviction and positivity in his voice.

Rounds of chemotherapy left Dave struggling to walk as far as 10 meters, let alone work with the horses which is something he and wife Dawn have passionately done for at least 30 of the last 40 years under the Beaudiene Breeding banner.

"For the first three months it was bloody horrific. I was that weak I couldn't pull the skin off a sausage, let alone go and see the horses," he laughed.

"I was bloody lucky I had Shay Lowry who helped us last year come and give us a hand. I had roped them all up and done the hard yards early on, so it was just a matter of grooming, brushing them and lifting their legs up and teaching them to behave themselves.

"The last six weeks I've been feeling a lot better and have been able to do a day's work and I've been alright," he said.

Prior to his visit at Christchurch Hospital early this week, Dave and Dawn spent time in Auckland with a contingent of Southern Bred Southern Reared representatives.

The southern group sponsored the card at Alexandra Park and by all accounts the experience was a positive one.

"We had a great time up there. It was great catching up with a lot of owners and trainers on Friday night," he said.

Kennedy heads to Christchurch this year with a draft of seven yearlings. Six colts and a filly with one of the colts (Lot 140) being prepared on behalf of good friend and NZSBA executive member, Cleland Murdoch.

"He's a nice colt and a big strong two-year-old type. Shows himself out as a good-looking bugger and being out of the Stent family and by Father Patrick you would have to say he ticks a lot of the boxes."

His dam Rae Galleon was the winner of four and has left three winners herself. She is a full sister to 2002-03 3YO Trotting Filly of the Year, Belle Galleon, who is the mother of the millionaire Stent as well as the bonny mare Arya. Incredibly Arya finished her career with just as many Group One credits as her older bro (4), albeit in age group classics against her own sex.

Lot 150 is a Creatine colt out of one of New Zealand's strongest maternal family of square gaiters.



Lot 349: Bettor's Delight x Galleons Cheer colt

"He's a lovely moving colt, trots over the ground and is a big strong bugger. The Creatine's haven't sold terribly well but I won't be giving this fella away. I'd rather have a go myself as he really is a lovely animal.

"I spoke to Coaster Howe who bought the half-brother at last year's sales for \$22,000.

"He was a big bugger by Quaker Jet and they all thought he would need time, but Coaster is happy with him and said he will definitely make a racehorse," said Kennedy.

This maternal family needs little introduction with the colt being out of Ugly Betty, a two-win daughter of Earl out of 2019 Broodmare of Excellence winner Niamey.

Ugly Betty herself was a handy trotter for former trainer and now stipe Dave Anderson.

At stud she has produced two winners including the ill-fated Roll Tide (Muscle Mass) who at two had the biggest wraps of any juvenile trotter in Australia but sadly succumbed to an illness after his debut victory.

Both trotting lots from the Beaudiene Breeding draft are being prepared by John & Katrina Price of Price Bloodstock which has eased the pressure somewhat at the Otatutau based Kennedy operation.

The pacing side of the draft starts with Lot 272, a Captaintreacherous colt out of a two-win Bettor's Delight mare, Absolutely Delighted.

"He's not a big fella, but he's strong and powerful and looks like a go early type. A lovely mover and quite an athletic type of colt who I really like," he said.

Lot 293 is a Sweet Lou colt out of a race-winning half-sister to Group One winners Beaudiene Bad Babe and Beaudiene Boaz and there is plenty to like about him by the sounds.

"Stunning looking and an absolute athlete. I think most of the Sweet Lou's are good natured, but he just wants to work with you, and he is a bloody gem of a horse.





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Lot 293: Sweet Lou x Beaudiene Beaut Babe colt

"He reminds me so much of his aunt, Beaudiene Bad Babe. She had such a strong rear end, and he is the same, good barrel and a real stunning looker.

Lot 349 is a son of Bettor's Delight out of the stakes performed and Group One producing Galleons Cheer.

The daughter of Albert Albert was good enough to contest the fillies' classics in her day, and passed that speed onto her progeny with daughter Cheer The Lady good enough to win a New Zealand Oaks. Galleons Cheer is also the grand dam of Spanish Armada!

"This colt has two-year-old written all over him. We could have taken him to the sales in August" exclaimed Kennedy.

"Black, striking looking, powerful, great natured. He does try and nip occasionally but that's it and he is a colt after all.

"He's beautifully put together and a real quality colt who should bring some money hopefully," he said.

Lot 357 is a Captaintreacherous filly hails from the family above and is the first foal from a full-sister to Cheer The Lady in Galleons Pleasure.

"Cleland Murdoch has 25 percent of her with me. She's a lovely big strong filly. A nice type. She has a bit of attitude, not dirty or anything but just a bit of spunk and should sell well I'd say," said Kennedy.

The final yearling of the Beaudiene draft is literally the last in the sale. Lot 430 is a Captaintreacherous colt out of Northview Desire, a well related Real Desire mare who is the dam of NZ record-holder, Northview Hustler.

This colt may be the last in the sale but by no means is he the least, particularly where his frame is concerned.

"He's a big boy with a tremendous nature and quite an athletic horse for his size. He's a great mover and will do Cleland proud," he said.

In just under a fortnight's time the folk of the deep south



will turn their hand to showcasing their sensational draft in their own back yard.

A magical experience with horseman and prominent buyers flocking from round the country to take part in what is always a wonderful two days of inspecting truly stunning yearlings: the Southern Yearling Tour

The touring contingent mysteriously grows in capacity late in the day, but would that have anything to do with a famous Kennedy meal?

"We're not having the BBQ here but hopefully we can still dish up a similar spread," said Kennedy.

"I've got Brent organising the crayfish and have sorted the whitebait. Actually, that reminds me, I better call up the marae and get the ok for the Toheroa! just need to get that and a bit of paua and we should be right" he said.

For those that haven't had the fortune of experiencing an SBSR tour, the banquet at the Kennedy's which takes place at the end of the first day is off held in higher regard than the Southland yearlings themselves.

Hyperbole? Not in your life. How many racing functions have you been too where some of the delicacies on offer require a permit from the local iwi!

The camaraderie experienced with good grub and a cold one is hard to beat in the Southland summer, and by all accounts this year's edition has almost double the attendance of any other year.

"It's full steam ahead for us. we will be attacking and can't wait for the sales to get under way. We have double the number of people coming down on the tour and everyone I spoke to in Auckland agrees that the sale will be a strong one.

"I think the internet auction will work well and NZB have that down to a fine art. We would love to host our Australian friends, but I imagine they will make their presence felt across the three days," he said.

Kennedy and his wife Dawn are no strangers to selling high priced yearlings so here's hoping for a change of fortune in recent times and that Dave gets some positive news shortly regarding his health.

Keep fighting the good fight, mate.

LABOYRIE TRIO HEAD TO KARAKA

Brad Reid

Cambridge breeder Pat Laboyrie is heading to Karaka in a few weeks' time with a trio of nice colts. He's not getting too carried away as this isn't his first rodeo and certainly won't be his last either.

Experience has taught Laboyrie to keep an even-keeled approach: regardless of what he thinks of his draft, he knows the buyers will have the final say.

The ole chestnut of breeding for the sales is a well-known conundrum.

You either spend the money and go to the top end with proven commercial sires or take a punt on the next wave in the hope of pulling the right rein in two to three years' time.

This is pretty well encapsulated in last year's sales results for Laboyrie with his two Art Major colts out Matambra & Helena Jet selling for \$30,000 and \$40,000. A solid if not spectacular result.

A punt on a first season sire didn't quite pan out the way Laboyrie hoped with a filly and a colt by Always B Miki fetching just \$12,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

"I took a bit of a bath on Always B Miki last year. I was disappointed that the buyers didn't support him as I would have hoped. They hadn't raced in North America at that stage and the buyers were on the fence," he said.

The irony is that while the market ultimately dictates the prices paid, it doesn't dictate whether the progeny of Laboyrie's fine breed will run.

Despite taking the odd bath at the yearling sales in terms of remuneration, it hasn't stopped him from rolling the dice with his stallion selections, and it certainly hasn't stopped them from running on the track.

He bred the only NZ bred Group One winner ever sired by Jaguar Spur 20 years ago when Matai Mackenzie was head and shoulders above the rest of the juveniles in earning NZ 2YO Pacer of the Year honours.

Laboyrie also bred and raced the 13-win mare Helena Jet with connections of Greg & Nina Hope with the daughter of Jereme's Jet unfortunate in being from the same crop of fillies that produced the freak, Adore Me.

It did not stop her from recording two Group One placings behind Adore Me and winning a handful of Listed and Feature races such as the Nevele R Mares Classic on Show Day.

He has also had some great results with Rock N Roll Heaven, a well-known producer of X-Factor horses but

also a sire that is known to be overlooked at the yearling sales.

Laboyrie has bred Group One winner A G's Whitesocks and NZ record-holder Emily Blunt which goes to show what's right for the sales may not always be best suited to the breed.

Either way, the man they call Pat has fashioned a fine record as a breeder from his base in Cambridge and anything he puts in the ring deserves serious consideration.

If you don't believe me, look at the pedigree pages of his draft. Very few, if any, unraced progeny from his mares with plenty of black type. Quite simply, the breed can run, and the talent doesn't skip a generation like it can with some families.

His first offering at Karaka is Lot 66, a Sweet Lou colt out of Athena Matai, a two-win daughter of Real Desire.

"He's a nice well-grown yearling and a half to Just Wandering (Rock N Roll Heaven). John Hay trains him and he's won five already.

"Stonewall Stud purchased the Miki out of the mare at last year's sale and the reports on him since being broken are really good," he said.

He also has another Sweet Lou colt out of Helena Jet in Lot 107.

"He's a really nice mature looking colt. A bit like his mother, a coupled sort of a horse and only average size but we really like him," he said.

"I'm a little bit worried about the number of Sweet Lou's in the sale. Hopefully that will work out alright.

"Andrew & Lyn Neal really like the Art Major filly they bought out of the mare last year, and reports are she has broken-in well.

"Jemma is out of Helena Jet (Mach Three) and has done quite a good job so far (2 wins, 5 placings) with Barry Purdon. She is out spelling at the moment but has run some cracker races in a short space of time," he said.

His final offering is Lot 129, an Art Major colt out of Elsu mare, Matai Mies, a six-win half-sister to Helena Jet.

"He's a half to Emily Blunt who set New Zealand records at two and three over 2400m at Nelson. We have a full sister to this colt in work with Ross Paynter who qualified back in November and will make a racehorse," he said.

"I did have a filly out of Angelina Jolie in the sale, but she is now withdrawn. "I have always really liked her right from the start, and she is only the second live foal from the mare with the other being her half-brother Matt Damon.

"She's strong, black and just stunning to look at. She is



going away to get broken-in shortly and Fergus will do most of the work with her at Kyle Marshall's stable," said Laboyrie.

Laboyrie will again have his draft prepared by the team at Leanach Lodge who this year have garnered support from a wider clientele including the Paynter's.

Leanach Lodge have a history of preparing thoroughbreds for the Karaka sale and have for the last few years prepared the yearlings of Laboyrie for the standardbred equivalent at Karaka.

"The relationship started with Ian MacKay who was my vet when he used to work for Cambridge Vet. Through him, I met his son Ross who runs Leanach Lodge and has a big agistment farm in Kaipaki on the outskirts of Cambridge.

"It developed from there really and he does a brilliant job with the yearlings.

"I get them three-quarters ready and then they go to Ross about a month or so out from the sale to have the finishing touches put on them," he said.

"I've had Fergus Schumacher helping me and he is really good with young horses. He does a lot of handling and walking of the foals and picking their feet up and giving them a solid early education.

"It pays dividends in the long run and Fergus also does a lot of work with break-ins and has real patience with a young horse which is what you need. He talks to them a lot and just has a gift for getting them to play ball," he said.

Laboyrie has just wrapped up another breeding and foaling season and is excited at what he sees with his future draft all happy, healthy and enjoying the Cambridge summer.

"Helena Jet has got a beautiful Vincent colt who I really like, Matai Mies has got an Always B Miki filly, Athena Matai has got a Vincent filly and Angelina Jolie has got a colt by Ultimate Machete and I really like that one," he exclaimed.

As far as the broodmares are concerned, despite having taken a hit at the 2020 sales, Laboyrie has been encouraged by the reports of Always B Miki from local horseman and the results on the track in North America.

"Matai Mies, Angelina Jolie and Helena Jet are all in foal to Always B Miki.

"I've rolled the dice with Always B Miki hoping that his North American results translate to some success down here. Last year was unfortunate but I was a year early and that's just the way it goes.

"I left Athena Matai empty this year because we are trying to do an embryo transfer from Atomic Gold," he said.

Atomic Gold being the dam of warhorse Power of Tara and the enigmatic A G's Whitesock's. She is also the grand dam of the champion Tiger Tara who has just stood his first season across the ditch.

"On Saturday we will be flushing the embryo and that will go into Athena Matai if it works," said Laboyrie.

The end result if successful would be a full-brother or sister to A G's Whitesocks and either way a healthy foal with that sort of pedigree will be well worth the rigmarole involved with the embryo transfer process.

"She is doing alright given her age and I have an Art Major two-year-old out of her that is in work with Greg Hope and by all accounts he goes pretty good.

"I'm also breeding out of a Sportswriter daughter of Atomic Gold called Uma Thurman who has a colt foal at foot by Always B Miki. I felt that her being by a son of Artsplace and Miki coming from the Western Hanover line it might be a nice cross for her," he said.

Canterbury Yearling Tour Itinerary

Monday 1 February 2021

- 12.15pm: **Styx Stables** 195 Styx Mill Road, Casebrook
- 1.00pm: **Millwood Farm** 183 Raddens Road, Ohoka
- 2.00pm: **Laura Smith's** 2350 Tram Road, Cust
- 3.15pm: **Ripple Creek** 2 Aschens Road, Ohoka
- 4.15pm: **Dancingonmoonlight** 609 South Eyre Road, Ohoka

Tuesday 2 February 2021

- 9.15am: **Rosedale Farm** 8 McDrurys Road, Halswell
- 10.35am: **Studholme Bloodstock** 146 The Lake Road, Coes Ford
- 12.50pm: **Richard Aubrey's** 34 Hororata-Dunsadel Road, Dunsadel
- 1.20pm: **Dunvegan Lodge** 93 Telegraph Road, Burham
- 2.30pm: **Boyd Racing** 1698 West Coast Road, West Melton
- 2.55pm: **Barron Bloodstock** 627 Hoskyns Road, West Melton
- 3.30pm: **Gael Murray's** 706 Robinsons Road, Broadfield
- 4.30pm: **Spreydon Lodge** 856 Springs Road, Prebbleton

For more information about the tours contact Rachel Deegan +64 3 381 0141 or email rachel.deegan@nzb.co.nz





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STRONG REPRESENTATION OF FRESHMAN SIRES AT NATIONAL YEARLING SALES

NZB Standardbred

Yearlings by freshman sires Vincent, What The Hill and Downbytheseaside will go under the hammer for the first time in New Zealand at NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale in Auckland and Christchurch.

Buyers will have plenty of opportunities to get their hands on the progeny of the three former racetrack stars, with a standout line up of 59 of their yearlings catalogued for sale.

With an incredible collection of accolades from around the world behind them and now having left outstanding types, anticipation is building ahead of Vincent, What The Hill and Downbytheseaside's first yearlings hitting the sales ring.

The Pacing Prince

Vincent's stock have captured the attention of the breeding industry since his first foals hit the ground in Australasia.

Strong, muscular and athletic types, the stallion's progeny look every bit the standout prospect their sire was when he sold for A\$130,000.

A stunning pacing machine, the former Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen trained entire had his career cut short just as he was set to dominate Australasia's Grand Circuit races.

But not before he won four Group One races in the New Zealand Derby, New South Wales Derby, New South Wales Breeders Challenge and Auckland Cup.

With his blueblood pedigree, being by champion sire Art Major, from an eight-time Group One winner in Kept For Pleasure, Vincent's progeny were destined for the sales ring.

If the demand in his first public offerings at weanling and mixed bloodstock sales are anything to go by, buyers will be eager to snap up Vincent's yearlings at the NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale.

Three yearlings by Vincent are catalogued to sell at Karaka on 13 and 14 of February.

A bumper selection of 21 have been nominated to go



Vincent

under the hammer in Christchurch on 15, 16 & 17 of February.

Somebeachsomewhere's Speedster Son

Former North American star racehorse Downbytheseaside will be out to continue his strong momentum in New Zealand at the 2021 National Yearling Sale.

Progeny of the son of late champion racehorse and sire Somebeachsomewhere were in hot demand in his first public offering in this country at NZB Standardbred's 2020 All Age Sale.

Bidders sent a clear signal that they were impressed by what they saw in both the pedigrees and physique of Downbytheseaside's stock as they made up three of the sale's top-four prices.

And buyers clearly saw some of the traits that made the freshman sire a star North American racehorse.

A US\$2,000,000 earner and Dan Patch Three-Year-Old Of The Year winner, with a lifetime mark of 1:48.6, Downbytheseaside was a dominant force in age-group racing.

An early running two-year-old, winning eight of his 13 starts, he collected big wins across North America in a standout three-year-old year banking US\$1,600,000 in stakes.

A select group of 10 Downbytheseaside yearlings have been catalogued to sell at NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale.

Three will go through the sales ring at Karaka with a further seven to be offered in Christchurch.

The Squaregaiting Star

An injection of new trotting blood will also hit the sales ring at this year's NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale.

Another North American star, another Dan Patch Three-Year-Old of the Year award winner and a stablemate of Downbytheseaside at Woodlands Stud, What The Hill will make his debut in both the Karaka and Christ-



sale rings.

A star on the track, What The Hill banked US\$1,200,000 and took a lifetime mark of 1:51.8 before being retired at the end of his brilliant three-year-old season.

Being a son of superstar stallion Muscle Hill, What The Hill was always going to be in hot demand as a stallion.

That was certainly the case in Australasia where he served a book of more than 100 mares in his first season.

A selection of 25 of the resulting progeny will be offered at NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale.

16 of those are catalogued to go through the Karaka sales ring with a further nine to go under the hammer in Christchurch.

A further two freshman sires will also debut at this year's yearling sale.

Southwind Frank and Aldebaran Eagle are both represented by one lot each in the sale catalogue.

All yearlings by both new and established sires at the NZB Standardbred 2021 National Yearling Sale are eligible to be nominated for the lucrative NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sale Race Series.

Buyers can purchase confidently with all yearlings available to inspect during on-farm parades. NZB Standardbred and New Zealand based-agents and trainers will be available to inspect on behalf of prior to the Sale and on the grounds at the Karaka Sales Centre and Canterbury Agricultural Park.

International buyers are encouraged to participate via NZB's new user-friendly online bidding platform, while all New Zealand-based buyers and agents are welcome to attend the physical Sale sessions in person in Auckland and Christchurch.

View the full catalogue online here.

For more information, or to get in touch with one of the NZB Standardbred team members call +64 21 939 950 or email rachel.deegan@nzb.co.nz

2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale Calendar

- Auckland Parade at Karaka: Saturday 13 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)
- Auckland Sale of Pacers & Trotters: Sunday 14 February 2021, 12PM (NZT)
- Christchurch Parade & Sale of Trotters: Monday 15 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)
- Christchurch Sale of Pacers: Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)

BREEDER HOPING FOR TRANS-TASMAN SPIN-OFF

Dave DiSomma

A Group One victory at one of Victoria's biggest nights of racing has been hailed as a victory for the small-time breeder.

Canterbury breeder Grant Beckett was overjoyed when Keayang Livana won the 4YO Trotting mares feature at Tabcorp Park Melton on Vicbred Super series grand final night because he stands her sire Imperial Count at stud.

"She's always shown a lot of ability, and it shows you can produce Group One winners without having to spend a lot of money," says Beckett, who runs Phoebe Standardbreds at Broadfield, just out of Christchurch. The stud was named after Phoebe, an area of farmland in North Canterbury where the Becketts have farmed for four generations.

He's hoping Keayang Livana's success - she's won 10 from 21 starts - will translate into increased interest and business coming his way.

"Certainly there's been a lot of feedback."

Standing for \$1500, Imperial Count is one of three stallions at the stud, along with Royal Aspirations and Lochcharburn. By Angus Hall out of Miss Imperial, Imperial Count won 17 in North America (2010-15) before embarking on his stud career.

"Imperial Count came to New Zealand for a year then had three seasons in Australia and then came back."

"He has served 20 mares this season but it's still disappointing that he can't attract bigger numbers."

Keayang Livana was not bred here. Out of an unraced Sundon mare Poignant she was foaled in Victoria in October 2015.

Her win in the Vicbred super series on New Year's Eve took her earnings over \$130,000 and was Imperial Count's first Group One success as a sire.

Among other Imperial Count progeny to have excelled are Monaro Mia (13 wins, \$AUD180,302), Imperial Whiz (17 wins, \$AUD168,532) and Phoebe Imperial, who's trained by Nicky Chilcott. He's won six from 34, his latest win being at Cambridge on Christmas Eve.

"We have to celebrate success," says Beckett, who's realistic about where he stands compared to breeding heavyweights like Alabar, Woodlands Stud and Nevele R.

"We have a role to play, and it is at the bottom end of



of the market.”

Beckett estimates that horses bred by Phoebe Stud have won over 170 races over the years and he has no doubts as to the race he'd like to win more than any other.

“Some trotting breeders look at the Dominion but for me it's the Rowe Cup, who knows, but that would be a big one for me.”

ATTENTION ALL BREEDERS

HRNZ

The giant trotter it seems has turned into a big softie.

At over 17 hands Master Lavros was a fair lump of a horse that took out two Dominion Handicaps on his way to winning 20 times from 53 starts, amassing \$608,007 in stakes.

Leg problems forced his retirement from the track in 2017 as an eight-year-old. At the time his trainer-driver Mark Jones said :

“He will be extremely well cared for. He looked after us so good on the track he deserves to be looked after off the track.” he said.

Now that place is a 20 acre (eight hectare) lifestyle block in the Hakataramea Valley in the middle of the South Island and his minder is 17-year-old Timaru Boys High student Dan Patterson.

“He's amazing,” says Patterson of the 12-year-old hack he calls “Master” or “Big Red”, “he was everything I was looking for, a gifted horse.”

He acquired Master Lavros through his family's friendship with Master Lavros' high profile breeder and owner Kypros Kotzikas and his partner Jane Campbell.

“”They just surprised me with a horse one day.”

The aspiring vet did know of the Sundon gelding's exploits and has since watched many of the replays of his greatest races. And there are plenty.

“He's amazing,” says Patterson of the 12-year-old hack he calls “Master” or “Big Red”, “he was everything I was looking for, a gifted horse.”

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“”They just surprised me with a horse one day.”

He was a former NZ record holder for the mobile 2600m at 3:13.1, and as well as his two Group One Dominion

triumphs, he also won the 2014 Rowe Cup, and was NZ Trotter Of The Year in 2014.

Patterson says retirement certainly appears to be agreeing with him.

“He's a completely different horse now, he's very relaxed.”

Patterson's had the horse for about a year now.

“He was already broken into saddle but we've learned how to canter and trot and we've done a few jumps, though we are working on that, we're only jumping about 40 centimetres.”

Just recently the pair entered a Have A Go day run by Oamaru A&P. The combo was awarded Reserve Champion, with three first placings, one second and two fourths.

And they clearly impressed judge Kirstyn Walker – “There was just this most incredible bond, you could see that Dan and the horse loved each other.”

Competition is not the be all or end all for Patterson, though they will continue to support local events.

“It's just fun, we are just as happy hacking and trekking around or river riding or swimming in the dams.”

It seems that Patterson and “Big Red” are for keeps.

“I just want to keep giving him the best life possible.”

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO INDUSTRY BODIES

TAB NZ: independent Directors

RACING INTEGRITY BOARD: Board Members

The Government through the Department of Internal Affairs is calling for directors for TAB NZ and board members for the Board.

Background information, the required skills and attributes, time commitment and remuneration and the appointment process can be found on the DIA website and also following this link

NOMINATION FORM: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Appointments-to-Statutory-Bodies#current>



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REVELL DOUGLAS - OBITUARY

By Garrick Knight

Shock and grief reverberated through the entire industry on Wednesday when word spread that South Auckland horseman Revell Douglas had died in the most tragic of circumstances.

The 46-year-old horseman, a former racing administrator and journalist, drowned at Karioitahi Beach near Waiuku shortly after working his new trotter, Scrapyllitlenobody.

Douglas, universally liked through both the racing and equestrian industries, departed this earth a hero after helping save the lives of six children.

While 2020 was calamitous for most people, for Douglas it had seen him buy a new house and start a new relationship with partner Lou Watkin, who was with him at Karioitahi Beach on Wednesday, along with seven children.

"We met six months ago and I've never known a more beautiful soul," she said.

"A gentleman, an amazing dad and perfect partner. He just blew me away.

"I am just speechless at what has happened to a wonderful, wonderful man.

"He was so proud of his horses and he really wanted us to go down and see 'Scrapy' run on the beach.

"So he picked Scrapy up and brought his three sons down and his father, Don, brought his horse down too.

"Don and Rev gave their horses a good long run up the beach then after they finished, Rev took Scrapy for a swim in the water."

Training his horses on the beach was cathartic for Revell, Watkin reckoned.

"Just a couple of days prior he had sent me some beautiful photos from the beach telling me how inspiring it was and how he loved taking his horses down there."

Unfortunately, what was shaping as lovely family morning at the beach soon turned to tragedy.

"The kids decided to go for a swim and very quickly found themselves in difficulty so we both went in to help them.

"With the help of Revell's eldest son, Lockie, we managed to get them all out but sadly, Rev didn't make it.

"He has died an absolute hero and we are all forever indebted to him for making sure the kids were safe."

"He gave everything to make sure they all survived. It was just too much in the end."

Douglas was born in Helensville in 1974 to parents Don and Laura, a younger brother to Paula, before the family moved to Waiuku a couple of years later.

He grew up in the sleepy town southwest of Auckland, eventually attending Waiuku College.

"He excelled in all sports there and ended up being captain of the First XV," said his father, Don.

He then shifted to Palmerston North in 1993 to study Agricultural Economics and Marketing at Massey University in Palmerston North.

Freshly graduated, he returned to Auckland and started working in the Ardmore stable of Glen Harwood, who was then private trainer for Steve and Jill Stockman.

Like most aspiring trainers, Douglas had a hunger for knowledge and wanted to expand his skillset, so spent a year in upstate New York working for former Kiwi, Paul 'Stretch' Jessop.

He would often retell the story of how he accompanied Auckland Cup winner Burlington Bertie on the flight across the Pacific in early 1998.

Australia was next and an 18-month stint at a prominent thoroughbred establishment in New South Wales before he returned home early in the new millennium.

He shifted to New Plymouth, where his sister now lived, and worked for the Taranaki Daily Times as a sports and racing writer as well as contributing to the Harness Racing Weekly.

Before long, an opportunity arose to become the Racing Manager at the Auckland Trotting Club and he took it with both arms.

"He was much liked and admired at Alexandra Park," said Don.

"And I know he enjoyed his time there."

By now Douglas was married to Julia and they were starting a family and due to her professional advancement, they moved to the Waikato.

He decided to make a go of it as a horse trainer and set up a stable on the property of Robbie Hughes, near Lake Karapiro.

His first winner came at Taranaki in April 2007 with the claiming mare, Cool Service, but she was soon claimed



off him and around this time he had leased an unraced trotter, Rockin Brie, from John Green.

She won four races in 18 months for him before he had to hand over the reins to Don because an opportunity arose in Western Australia.

"He attained the role of CEO and Racing Manager at Pinjarra Raceway in 2009," recalls Don.

"More or less he jumped off the plane in his gumboots and inherited a huge development of new stands and infrastructure.

"These were completed successfully before he left."

He also dabbled in training while there most notably with veteran Kiwi import Turismo, who won four on end shortly after arriving in 2011.

The Douglas family spent three years in Pinjarra and youngest son Liam was born there shortly before the decision was made to move home and have the boys attend school in New Zealand.

The next eight years, based primarily in Karaka, saw Douglas build up the New Zealand arm of Hygain, an Australian-based horse feed company.

"Initially it was a developmental role because until his appointment they had only dabbled in New Zealand," said Don.

"He more or less built it from the ground up in New Zealand to what it is today, so it was a very successful partnership."

He kept his hand in horse training when time allowed, his life very busy with Hygain and raising three sons, but he managed to train eight further winners in that time.

Started 2020 off well with three wins in the space of a month thanks to giant trotter Locksmith, and injury-plagued pacer, Revving.

Douglas got his fifteen minutes of national fame when appearing on Seven Sharp last year, recounting the heart-warming story of Locksmith being saved by a team of people after falling down a well on the Glenbrook property he was training from.

Don Douglas says he takes solace from the fact that his son was content in the months before his passing.

"He was just so happy, in a really great space.

"And I'll always cherish that last trip up the beach we took together on Wednesday morning.

"I haven't just lost a son; I've lost a great mate."

A testament to his overwhelming popularity was the scores and scores of tributes from friends and colleagues on social media as news spread of his passing.

The common theme was clear – a proud and committed father, a champion bloke with a heart of gold and razor-sharp wit.

An accomplished horseman and administrator successful in everything he turned his hand to.

A friend to hundreds, not one of them with a bad word to say about him.

And finally, a hero.

Revell Paul Douglas is survived by sons Lockie, Hamish and Liam, parents Don and Laura, sister Paula, brother in law Patrick, partner Lou, and wife Julia. A Rocknroll Dance out of Pure Opulence called Lamarli.

Now Crabbe can't wait to see what Shartin produces off the track. She will be bred to two-time USA pacer of the year Captaintreacherous and two-time New Zealand Cup winner Lazarus.

"It's like she's gone full circle and we have her progeny to look forward to."

NZSBA BROODMARE LISTINGS

The NZSBA has developed a section of its website to make available free listings of mares that breeders do not intend to breed for the upcoming season.

While we would love to see you breed as many as possible, we understand that personal circumstances are unique and the costs associated with breeding will see some tough decisions being made.

Whether you are prepared to give the mare away, make a lease arrangement or see her sold, we would like to see every MARE get a chance at stud this season and there will be breeders out there looking to put mares in foal.

To view the current listings we have on our website, copy paste this link into your browser;

<https://thebreeders.co.nz/for-sale-lease/>



FEEDING WEANLINGS TO YEARLINGS

Management after weaning

The nutritional management of a weanling will depend a lot on the commercial end point of the horse. Horses being prepared for sales as yearlings will require more intensive management than those that are to be left in the paddock until breaking-in.

Both sets of horses will require a good balanced diet and steady growth but maintaining good growth rates are of key importance for sales horses. It will be necessary for sales horses to have a well developed top line also.

Steady growth is most desirable, foals and weanlings with steady growth are less likely to develop DOD (Developmental Orthopaedic Disease) than those with significant fluctuations in growth rates. Many farms will monitor growth rates closely weighing horses on a regular basis.

Horses that carry excess body condition are also more likely to develop DOD than lighter individuals.

Weanlings require:

Adequate calorie intake for growth. Pasture diets alone will often not provide the calorie level necessary to achieve the required growth rates and therefore it is necessary to provide supplementary feed.

Supplementary feed should have adequate protein levels, a complete feed formulated for weanlings should be a minimum of 14% protein. The feed should have adequate levels of the amino acid Lysine which is required for proper growth.

Balanced vitamin and mineral intake. It is important that the Calcium: Phosphorous ratio in all horse diets is balanced however in particular in the weanling diet. A good quality premixed feed will have a balanced Ca:P ratio. If making your own ration this will be a major consideration with grain being very high in Phosphorous and low in Calcium.

Trace mineral supplementation is very important in the young growing horse due to the significant growth they are undertaking. In particular Copper, Selenium, Zinc and Manganese. Again using a quality brand of feed formulated for the young growing horse should provide an adequate intake of these key nutrients when fed at the recommended intake.

Low-GI feeds for young horses. The feeding of low glycaemic feeds for foals through to yearlings have become very popular in recent years. A low-GI feed means the feed is lower in starch than conventional grain based diets and as a result the calories are coming primarily from fibre and fat sources. Research has indicated that feeding these Low-GI feeds (Dunstan Breed and Grow) will be of benefit in trying to reduce the incidence of OCD due to maintaining stable blood glucose with fluctuations in blood glucose having a negative effect on cartilage development.

Types of feeds

If choosing to make your own feeds it will be very important to ensure all nutrient requirements of the young horse are being met.

If utilising a prepared feed ensure you use a product that is formulated for the young horse. There are many forms of premixed feeds and the form that you choose will depend on the individual and the other components within the ration.

Concentrates – These are very low intake supplements fed at approximately 500grams they will provide a concentrate source of key vitamins and minerals. They can be fed on their own when severe calorie restriction is required in a young growing horse, however more likely for a young horse they would be fed in conjunction with a grain based diet to ensure adequate lysine, vitamins and minerals are provided.

Semi- Concentrates – These products are fed at an intake between the concentrates and full feeds, usually around 1-1.5kg daily (Dunstan Fibre Balancer). These products are very useful when it is necessary to reduce the overall energy level of the diet due to excess weight gains but it is not desirable to reduce vitamin and mineral intake.

Full Feeds – Full feeds are formulated to be fed at approximately 3kg daily (minimum of 2.5kg) to ensure vitamin and mineral requirements are being met by the supplementary feed. Dunstan has two full feed options for the weanling, Dunstan Weanling (a lightly molassed muesli utilising extruded grains) or Dunstan Breed and Grow (a low glycaemic nut). If this level of hard feed is not required to maintain body condition or growth rates then use a semi-concentrate as indicated above.



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A SEASON OF INTEREST

Terry Nosrac | Harness Racing Update

As we drove among the snowy checkerboards of farmland bordering the road to visit my broodmare, my passenger asked a random question. "If you needed to specialize in one segment of harness horse racing, would you prefer racing a horse that you own, wagering on races, or raising a baby for sale?"

I thought carefully for 20 seconds, equaling my current record for thoughtful deliberation, and answered, "When I stumbled into the sport, my list was gambling first, racing second, and then a very distant third almost out of the picture, was breeding. Today, it's a complete reversal."

"Why?"

"The breeding segment of the sport grew on me. Getting a yearling into a sale ring is quite a challenge. Currently, with only one broodmare, my total costs are less. Plus, if the price is not right at a sale, I can always take the yearling home for racing."

"That surprises me," he said, "Breeding a baby horse is such a long process, years between breeding your mare and getting the yearling to the sales ring. That means day after day, nothing much happens, and you can be, well, a tad hyper."

I smiled. "In the breeding game, nothing happening is good. There are three thrills along the way – my broodmare getting in foal, the baby arriving safe and sound, and then the most terrifying, exciting, excruciating, thrilling two minutes imaginable, seeing the yearling in the sales ring."

"Patience and waiting are out of character for you."

"I am a man of many mysteries. Besides, I discovered a secret sauce that makes the entire breeding process fun and gives me plenty of action every day of the racing season."

"Secret Sauce? Action every day?"

"Maybe I should title this my... Uber Unique Scheduling for Maximizing Interest in the Standardbred Breeding Game."

"Maybe you should just explain yourself in English."

"Today, you will meet my yearling, a filly sired by Long Tom. She will go to market this fall. You will also meet my broodmare that is due this April. She is

sired by Long Tom. She will go to market this fall. You will also meet my broodmare that is due this April. She is carrying a baby from a stallion named Enterprise. I believe Long Tom and Enterprise are both very, very promising stallions, but something else influenced my selection of sires for my broodmare."

"Which is?"

"Long Tom's first crop will begin racing this year. Enterprise's first crop will begin racing next year."

"So?"

"This makes each season more enjoyable for me. My advanced planning will offer me seasons with reasons to cheer for Long Tom 2-year-olds in 2021 and Enterprise 2-year-olds in 2022. For me, breeding to the second or third crop of a stallion hits a sweet spot that adds another dimension on the fun front."

"Fun?"

"This summer, as the Long Tom 2-year-olds begin to race, every field will be of interest to me. These races become very significant. I am an official member of team Long Tom. Next year, I will be a member of the Enterprise team."

He gave a dismissive flick of his wrist, "How much difference to the value of your baby horse is the first crop?"

"It's important. When my yearling goes to market, how the first crop races is a HUGE factor for my yearling, should the 2YO Sires Stakes races have plenty of Long Tom's rocking the racing scene, my yearling will be more valuable."

"The value could go the other way."

"True, but this year, the mystery of Long Tom will begin to get solved in front of my anxious eyes. There is only one first racing crop. A proven stallion such as Cantab Hall has no mystery. He is a great stallion, and everyone knows what he can produce. On the other hand, if you breed your mare to a brand-new stallion, you are IN the first crop. Nobody knows for sure what they will do. Owners of offspring of stallions bred in the second crop are the only people who will have the excitement of watching the first crops prove their power in real-time. And you know Trey loves free thrills."

"And watching first racing crops is entertainment?"

"Indeed. Granted, I'm not normal but think of it

ike this. There are piles of football, basketball, or baseball games available. As a viewer, how much do you care that the Western Kentucky University Hill Toppers are playing the Akron College Zips in the Fruit Bowl, during the same time slot as six other games?"

He shrugged. "Not much unless you graduated from Akron, or your nephew plays for the Hilltoppers."

I continued. "Or during the baseball season, there can be sixteen games broadcast every day."

He completed my sentence for me, "And most viewers probably only care about their home team's game."

I honked the horn in agreement, "EXACTLY! Our brains strain to find reasons to take a side in a game or a race. When we have a reason to watch, and the reason can be quite flimsy, the contests become much more absorbing."

He nodded. "I'm beginning to smell your secret sauce."

"This year, thousands of horse races will be available that are meaningless to me. When I wager a few dollars on a race, my interest goes up a few ticks for a few moments. However, having a stake in the performance of Long Tom 2-year-olds, and placing a few dollars on them, will ratchet my interest button up to warp nine."

"Really?"

"Absolutely. I have been down this road. A harness sire's first racing class brings a whole new dimen-

sion. Owners of a member of the second crop, or even third crop, will scour the entries for 2-year-old races for Long Toms entries and have a reason to watch the race. And while a brain transplant would be necessary to help my handicapping, by intensely following the fates of the Long Tom offspring all year long, when I place a few dollars on these races, it makes me a bit of a Long Tom specialist."

"Maybe you should see a specialist."

"My friend, I play this game for enjoyment. This little quirk, breeding in this niche time frame, is a chance to guarantee an extra dose of interest and to cheer for a team. Heck, it's more than a chance. Cheering for Long Tom this summer is a sure thing." sion. Owners of a member of the second crop, or even third crop, will scour the entries for 2-year-old races for Long Toms entries and have a reason to watch the race. And while a brain transplant would be necessary to help my handicapping, by intensely following the fates of the Long Tom offspring all year long, when I place a few dollars on these races, it makes me a bit of a Long Tom specialist."

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